

PEOPLE'S POWER LEAGUE -- Initiative Sponsor of the CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT -- 1912 HJ3

offending party may be sent to the penitentiary."
T.J. Johns, *Laurel Outlook*, November 1910

"The basic principal upon which our republican form of government rests is that the inherent right to govern lies with the people themselves. But...an impartial observer today is able to recognize very little democracy in our politics."
L. W. Pierson, *Havre Promoter*, January 1911

"Even now you hear legislators from the cow regions declaring that party affiliations and party fidelity be thrown to the wind and a grand assault on the citadel of the potent and wicked combine be consummated--a thing devoutly to be wished." Daniel Whetston, *Cutbank Pioneer Press*, January 1911

"Anyone who knows anything about the situation must admit that Montana is at the present time, corporation-ruled, and no one can gainsay the fact that the actions of the Twelfth Legislative Assembly were dominated completely by the copper trust. . . . I am not hostile to the corporations as such in their proper sphere but I am opposed to corporations when they enter the spheres of politics and legislation." Rep. Harold Blake, R-Anaconda, March 1911

"Just now the people of Montana are in a somewhat belligerent frame of mind toward the Amalgamated Copper company, but the grievance proceeds only from the unwarranted and unnecessary attitude of that corporation in its effort to control the politics of the Treasure State. They resent having the big company controlling political conventions of both the leading parties in the state, dictating the selection of public officials and brazenly attempting to block legislation which is desired and needed by the people of Montana."

Tom Stout, *Fergus County Democrat*, April 1911

"The state suffers because every large daily newspaper of general circulation is controlled by special interests, and its news and editorial columns are under the censorship and control of

monopolistic combines in restraint of trade, or by individuals of great wealth and power lacking patriotic loyalty to their state and with all their interests concentrated in themselves."

A.M. Anderson, *Livingston Daily Post*, May 1911

"The issue in Montana is clearly defined. Shall the special interests which know no party allegiance, acting in our own state through the Amalgamated Copper company and its allies, control the republican, as well as the democratic party, or shall the republican party be controlled by the people themselves? There can be no compromise in the situation which confronts us."
U.S. Senator Joseph M. Dixon, *The Daily Missoulian*, March 1912

"Montana cannot, must not, stand for any further extension of the influence of the big copper combine. The revelation of its sinister power in the far outlying counties, in the presidential convention campaign this spring, must have been a surprise to many and a warning to all who hope to live free men in this state." Sam Gordon, *Daily Yellowstone Journal*, August 1912

"With the initiative and referendum, Montanans felt they had a weapon powerful enough to put all corporations out of politics both now and for all the years to come." R.N. Sutherlin, *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*, June 1904

"Under the operation of this law [Corrupt Practices Act] popular verdicts will be based upon ideas, not money; argument, not abuse; principles, not boss and machine dictation."
Miles Romney, *Western News*, April 1911

"It has been announced from time to time that the Amalgamated is 'out of politics,' but its lobby and other legislative agencies have not disappeared from public view." Wm. K. Harber, *Ft. Benton River Press*, March 1913

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"Campaigns were conducted by simply the opening of a barrel, and sowing the state from one end to the other with corporation money—the largest barrel winning in the end. This extravagant campaigning prevented the election of any but the wealthy or those supported by special interests." E.H. McDowell, *Terry Tribune*, February 1910

"A modern feudalism is being established through the subjugation of the people to the power of organized wealth controlled by non-residents, who have enlisted in their service an army of mercenaries and fortified these behind special legislation corruptly secured to administer government to the people of Montana. These influences have penetrated to every branch and department of government in Montana—state, county, city, and school district; judicial, executive, and legislative. They dominate both party political organizations, and dictate the selection of representatives in congress and national senate." J.C. Murphy, *Montana Lookout*, April 1910

"No stream can rise higher than its source and the law proceeds from the people, consequently there is no such thing as law that stands independent of popular opinion, and for the legislatures and courts to...divorce the law from reason,...would be fatal to the law and destructive to the country." John Edwards, *Billings Daily Gazette*, April 1910

"In these days when the larger papers, many of them owned and run in the interests of the big corporations; and when the editors are unknown and merely hacks who are given their subjects to write upon as a child is given its writing lesson; the people have turned to the magazines and country press for honest utterances."

B.F. Yerker, *Twin Bridges Monitor*, May 1910

"What use are ideal laws if corrupt officials connive at their violation...What we want is a congress, a cabinet, and federal and state and local officers who will see that all stand alike

before the law, that privilege is abolished."

E.L. Johnson, *Plains Plainsman*, June 1910

"It never pays to condone or gloss over political or other corruption, whether in legislatures, corporations or in any other body. What the people need and demand is honesty and purity, and sooner or later that demand will be met. Tricky politicians may stave off the day of reckoning for a time—but only for a time." Daniel Whetston, *Pioneer Press*, June 1910

"Whether through fear or for favor, control of the republican state convention was yielded to the political department of the Amalgamated Copper Mining Company--the same interests that...dictated the nomination of both the Democratic and Republican legislative tickets in Ravalli and most other counties in the state ... This great, overshadowing company, lusty offspring of Standard Oil, together with the half dozen other great combines that would dominate the national and all state governments, is now desperately striving to entrench itself in legislative halls from which the waves of insurgency are beating it back." Miles Romney, *Hamilton Western News*, September 1910

"Montana will declare in favor of a government by the people and against government by the trusts; will have pronounced against the robber tariff and its robber beneficiaries; will have joined with Maine, Wisconsin, Iowa and other progressive states, in repudiating the agents of Wall Street and proclaimed to the world that the Treasure State will again be a free people represented by men untrammelled by the octopus of greed and graft." D. Frank Bowman, *Sanders County Signal*, October 1910

"The Outlook hopes to see enacted into law a measure which will severely and commensurately punish any agent or representative of a corporation who attempts to coerce or unduly influence any employee in his exercise of the voting franchise, and the penalty should be made such that in case of conviction the